

# Health Management for Small Grains

**Dr. Alan Dyer**  
**Cereal Pathologist**  
**Montana State University**  
**[adyer@montana.edu](mailto:adyer@montana.edu)**

# Promised Doug Floch: 16 Diseases

- **Diagnosis**
- **Control\***
- **Future**

# Significant Pathogens of Cereal

*Pseudomonas syringae*, *Xanomonas translucens*, *Asters yellows agent*, *Biopolaris sorokiniana*, *Fusarium culmorum*, *Fusarium pseudograminearum*, *Fusarium graminearum*, *Cochliobolus sativus*, *Pseudocercospora herpotrichoides*, *Pythium aphanodermatum*, *Pythium irregulare*, *Rhizoctonia cerealis*, *Rhizocotonia solani*, *Microdochium nivale*, *Sclerotinia borealis*, *Typhula incarnata*, *Typhula ishkariensis*, *Sclerotium rolfsii*, *Gaeumannomyces graminis*, *Colletotrichum graminicola*, *Astilochyta hordei*, *Cephalosporium gramineum*, *Verticillium dahliae*, *Sclerotinia tritici*, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, *Sclerotinia conacis*, *Pyrenophora teres*, *Erysiphe graminis*, *Rhynchosporium secalis*, *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis*, *Stagnospora avenae*, *Stagnospora nodorum*, *Dreschlera wirrenganensis*, *Puccinia hordei*, *Puccinia coronata*, *Puccinia recondita*, *Puccinia graminis*, *Puccinia striiformis*, *Ustilago hordei*, *Ustilago nuda*, *Tilletia controversa*, *Claviceps purpurea*, *Penicillium claviformis*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Barley mild mosaic*, *Barley mosaic*, *Barley stripe mosaic*, *Barley yellow dwarf*, *Barley yellow streak mosaic*, *Barley yellow stripe*, *Brome mosaic*, *African cereal streak*, *Cereal tillering*, *Chloris striate mosaic*, *Enanismo*, *Hordeum mosaic*, *Oat blue dwarf*, *Oat pseudorosette*, *Oat sterile dwarf*, *Rice black-streak dwarf*, *Rice stripe*, *Wheat dwarf*, *Soilborne wheat mosaic*, *Wheat streak mosaic*, *Australian wheat striate*, *Eastern wheat striate*, *Wheat yellow leaf*, *Russian winter mosaic*, *Heterodera avenae*, *Meloidigyne naasi*, *Subanguina radicularis*, *Merlinius brevidens*, *Tylenchorhynchus dubius*, *Practylenchus thornei*,

It Could Have Been Worse!

# My Expertise:



## FLORAL

- Smuts and Bunts
- Scab
- Ergot
- Black Chaff

## FOLIAR

- Leaf spots
- Rusts

## SYSTEMIC

- Fungal
- Viral
- Bacterial

## ROOT

- Seedling
- Root and Crown

Dr. Mary Burrows\*  
New  
Extension  
Path.

# Emailed:

- **Dirty Little Diagnostic Cheat Sheet (Warning! Environmental, Nutrients...)**
- **New Seed Treatment MontGuide**

**Will be available at:**

**<http://plantsciences.montana.edu/department/plp/pathology.html>**

FLORAL

FOLIAR

SYSTEMIC

ROOT



**DIAGNOSIS:**

**What plant  
part is  
affected?**

# **My Wheat Heads Have Turned Prematurely White?**

## **FOLLOW UP QUESTION**

**Are the heads completely affected or  
are portions of heads affected?**



## DIAGNOSIS:

Sometimes entire heads. Sometimes portions of heads

Heads are completely affected...

# Floral Diseases

- **Diseases where floret become prematurely bleached (Scab, Black Chaff, Septoria Glume Blotch)**
- **Diseases where the florets remain green (Smuts, Bunts and Ergot)**

**Grower: Inconsistent... Sometimes entire heads. Sometimes portions of heads**

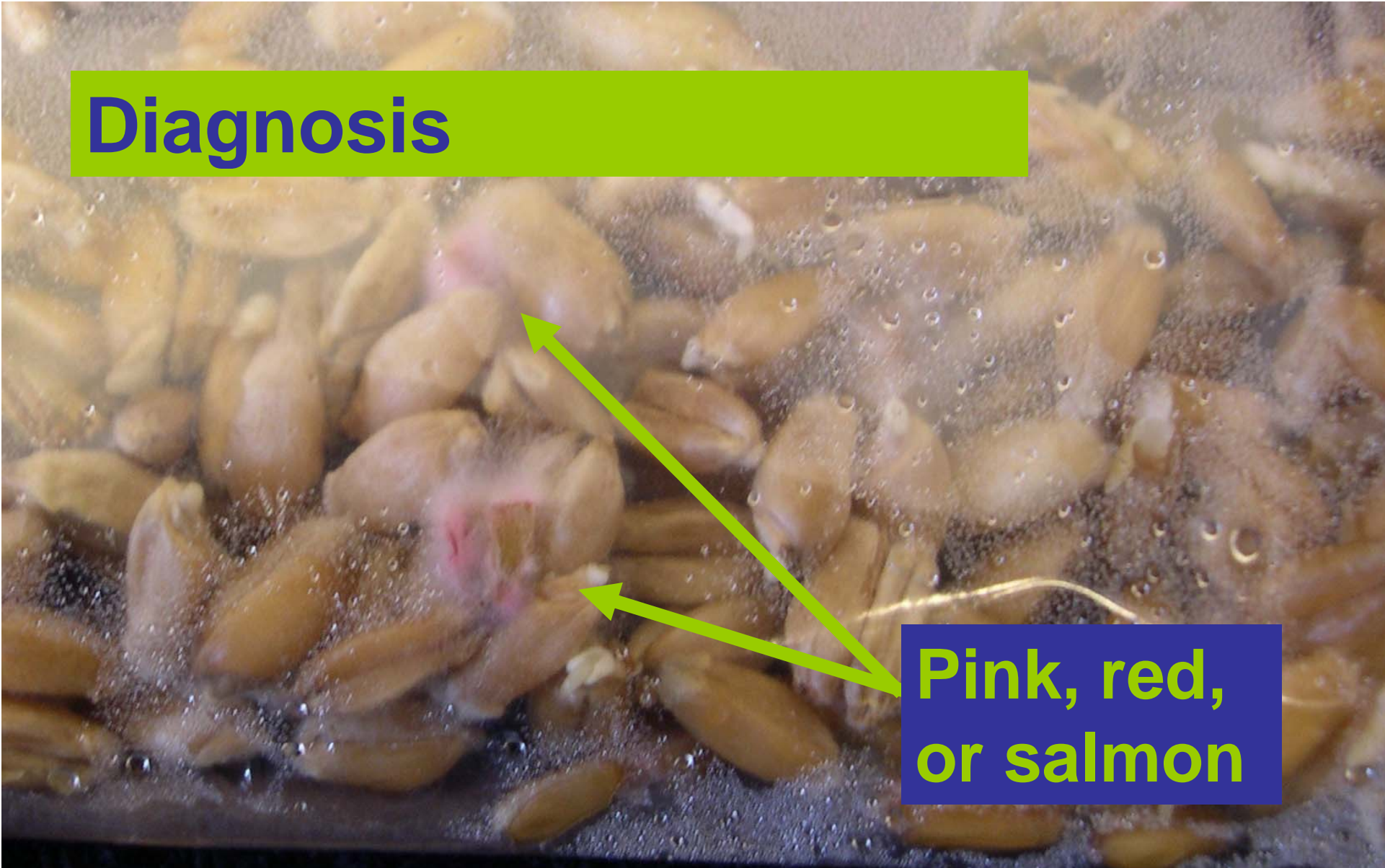


# Scab, Black Chaff, and Glume Blotch

- **Look for black discoloration**  
– (black chaff or glume blotch)
- **Pink Discoloration (Scab)**

**Post Harvest?**

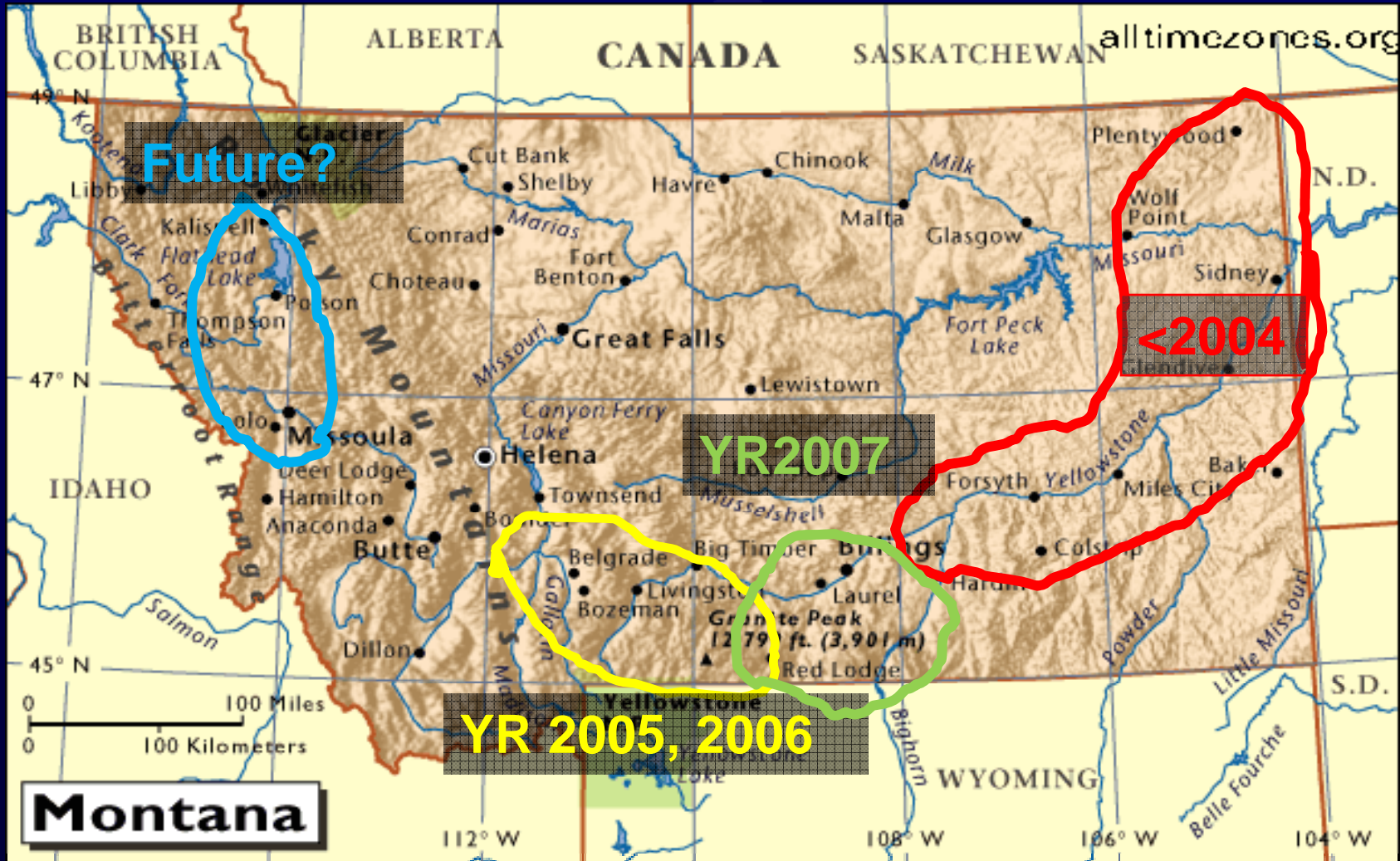
# Diagnosis



Pink, red,  
or salmon

4ppm DON = 3-4 affected kernels per 100.

# Scab in Montana



# Montana's Scab Control?

- **Sumai 3 Resistance**
- **Folicur or Proline**

# 2006 Irrigated Scab Nursery

Cultivars	DON	Lodging	Ergot	Yield
HANK	10.08	0	0	53
EXPLORER	1.99	0	0	61
ESPRESSO	1.98	1	0	76
GLENN	0	37	0.01	67.3
ALSEN	0	31	0.14	67.7
GRANITE	0.11	64	0.07	74.5
KELBY	0.25	0	0	78.5
KNUDSON	0.15	49	0.02	80.7
FREYR	0.06	63	0.03	85
ACS52610	0	78	0.02	86.7
VOLT	0	8	0.01	90.5

# Predictions:

- **Scab will spread into Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming (390,000 irrigated acres)**
- **Ergot (and black chaff) epidemics will occur in scab resistant lines.**

# Ergot Control:

- Rotation (1 year out of cereals)
- Deep Plowing
- Clean Seed
- Mow headlands before they set seed



# Ergot in headlands



What About Black Chaff?

# DIAGNOSIS:



# Foliar

- **Large necrotic spots with halos(Leaf spots: Tan Spot, Septoria Leaf Spot, Chloride Deficiency)**
- **Copious spores production with little necrosis (Rusts and Mildews)**

# DIAGNOSIS:

I have orange spots on my leaves.



# Diagnosing Rusts

Rust	Color	Temperatures	Size
Stripe Rust ( <i>P. striiformis</i> )	Bright Orange	Cool (< 80's)	Large Diffuse
Leaf Rust ( <i>P. recondita</i> )	Brick red	Moderate (mid 80's)	Small Discrete
Stem Rust ( <i>P. graminis</i> )	Burnt Red	High (Mid 80's-90's)	Large, Heavy And Often On Stems

# Montana

- **Stripe Rust (2005-present)**
- **Leaf Rust (2007)**



# Stripe Rust Control Is Dynamic

- **Currently Most Resistant Winter Wheat for Montana: “Yellowstone”**
- **Fungicides: Most labeled fungicides work well. I use Quadris or Quilt.**

# Fungicides increase yield and test weight under stripe rust pressure (Bozeman, 2006)

	Resistance reaction	Yield (bu/a)			Test weight	
		No fungicide	Quadris (14 oz/a)	% loss	No fungicide	Quadris (14 oz/a)
NuWest	VS	69	107	34	58	61
BigSky parent	S	73	89	18	58	61
Rampart parent	R	85	90	6	60	60
McNeal	S	73	80	9	56	56

# Stripe rust evaluations: winter wheat

Bozeman, 2006

Variety	Yield (Bu/a)	% Stripe rust (June 28)
Yellowstone	99	7
Promontory(?)	93	9
Jerry	89	10
NuFrontier	85	10
Rampart	80	18
Pryor	80	42
Jagalene*	79	12
CDC Falcon	78	55
Genou	71	36
Ledger	70	41
Neeley	70	72
NuSky	66	82
NuWest	65	83

# Changing Picture?



- **MT now has rust isolate “PST-102”:  
Virulent on Yr9 and Yr10, the R genes in Promontory.**

# Predictions:

- **Stripe rust and leaf rust will continue to be a problem**
- **Resistance to stem rust isolate Uganda99 will be incorporated into US Wheat and will only be a blip in US wheat production**



## DIAGNOSIS:

**Systemic  
diseases are  
a little  
challenging**

# Systemic Diseases (Confusing)

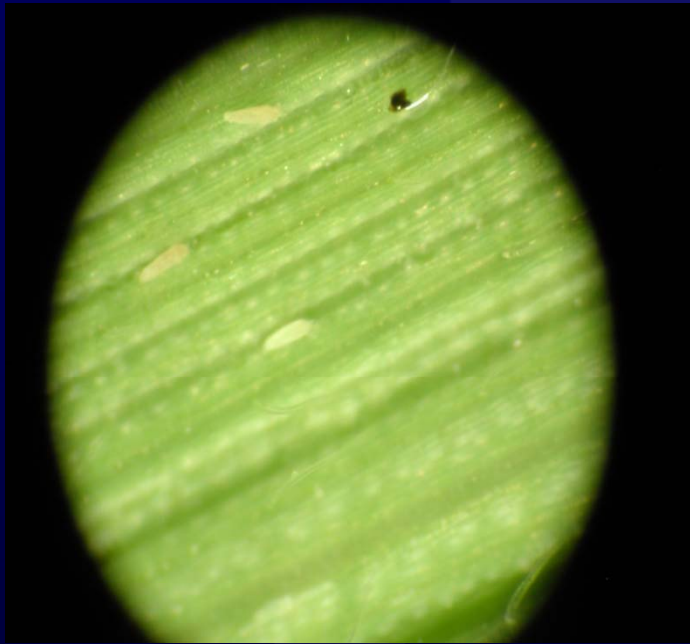


<http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/field/news/croppest/2003/08cpc03a1f1.jpg>

- **Cephalosporium Stripe**
- **Viruses (Wheat Streak)**
- **Phytoplasmas?**  
(Nutrient/Environmental?)



# Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus



- Transmitted by:  
wheat curl mite
- Control:  
remove green  
bridge

# Cephalosporium Stripe



- Rotate to spring crops for 2 years
- Use tolerant cultivars
- Future resistance?

# Break and Questions:

FLORAL

FOLIAR

15 Minutes

<http://plantsciences.montana.edu/department/plp/pathology.html>

ROOT

# **Root, Crown, and Seedling Diseases**

**Many of the same pathogens**

**Crown diseases are easiest**

**Scout within 3 weeks of harvest**

**(New Seed Treatment MontGuide)**



**Isolated stem lesions**



**Stem Discoloration extending from crown**



**Sharp Eyespot**

**Strawbreaker/  
Eyespot**

**Healthy**

**Take All**

**Fusarium  
Crown Rot**

# Common Root Rot



- **Seed treatment**
- **Reduce planting depth**

# Paired Plot Analysis of Fusarium Impacts On Winter Wheat (2006)

Cultivar	Yield Loss	
BigSky	0	
Hatcher	20	
Jagalene	15	<i>-Ave. 12.5</i>
Ledger	10	
Pryor	16	
Yellowstone	14	

# Fusarium Impacts on Spring Wheat

Huntley, MT 2005

Explorer	9.4
McNeal	10.3
Alsen	11.5
Hank*	11.7
Outlook	13.2
Knudson	20.8
NorPro	21.0
Reeder	21.8
Choteau	22.0
Vida	22.5

***-Ave. 16.4%***



**MONTANA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

\*Reduction likely higher than reported

Mountains & Minds

# Fusarium Impacts on Durum and Spring Wheat

Huntley, MT 2005

Utopia	12.3
Kyle	15.2
Monroe	16.7
Mountrail	17.1
Vic	20.2
Lebsock	22.7
AC Avonlea	23.5
Ben	23.6
Ward	24.4
Maier	25.1

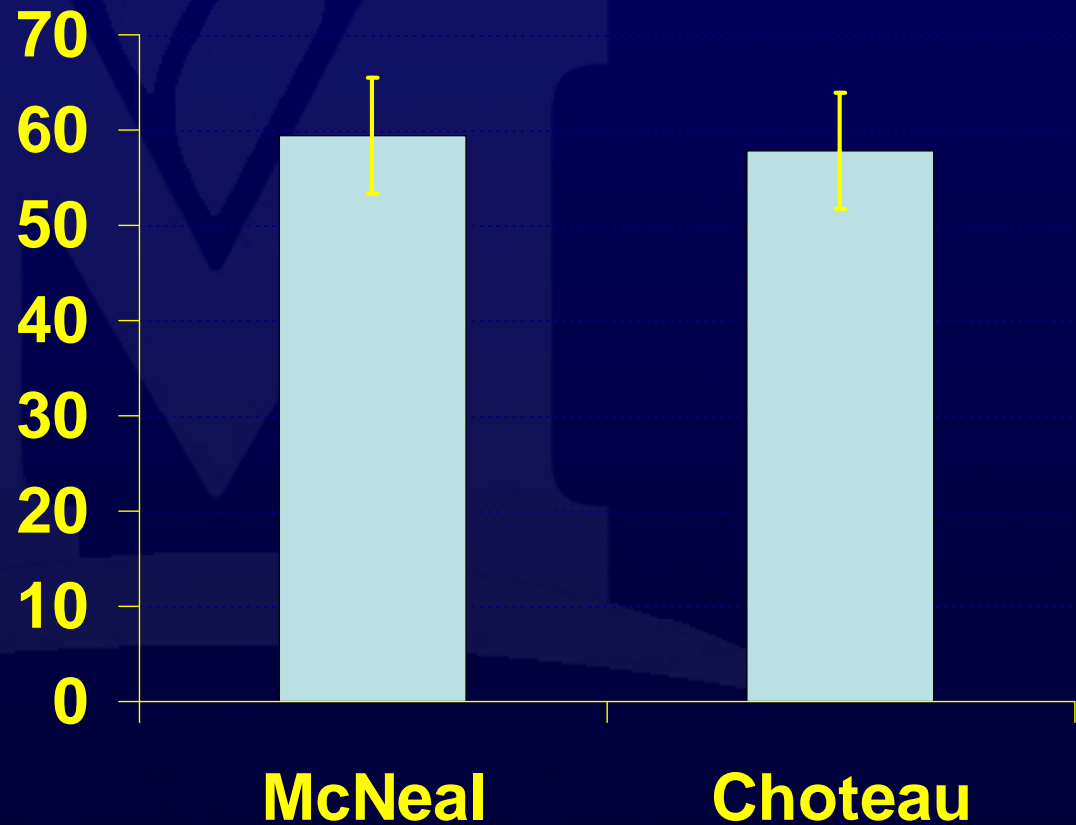
*-Ave. 20.1*

# Cultural Practices to Control Fusarium Crown Rot

- Choteau, McNeal
- Fertility: 100, 75, and 50% of recommended nitrogen –based on current & estimated water availability
- Stand Density: 20, 15 and 10 seed/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Inoculated: *F. pseudograminearum*

# Yield: Year 1

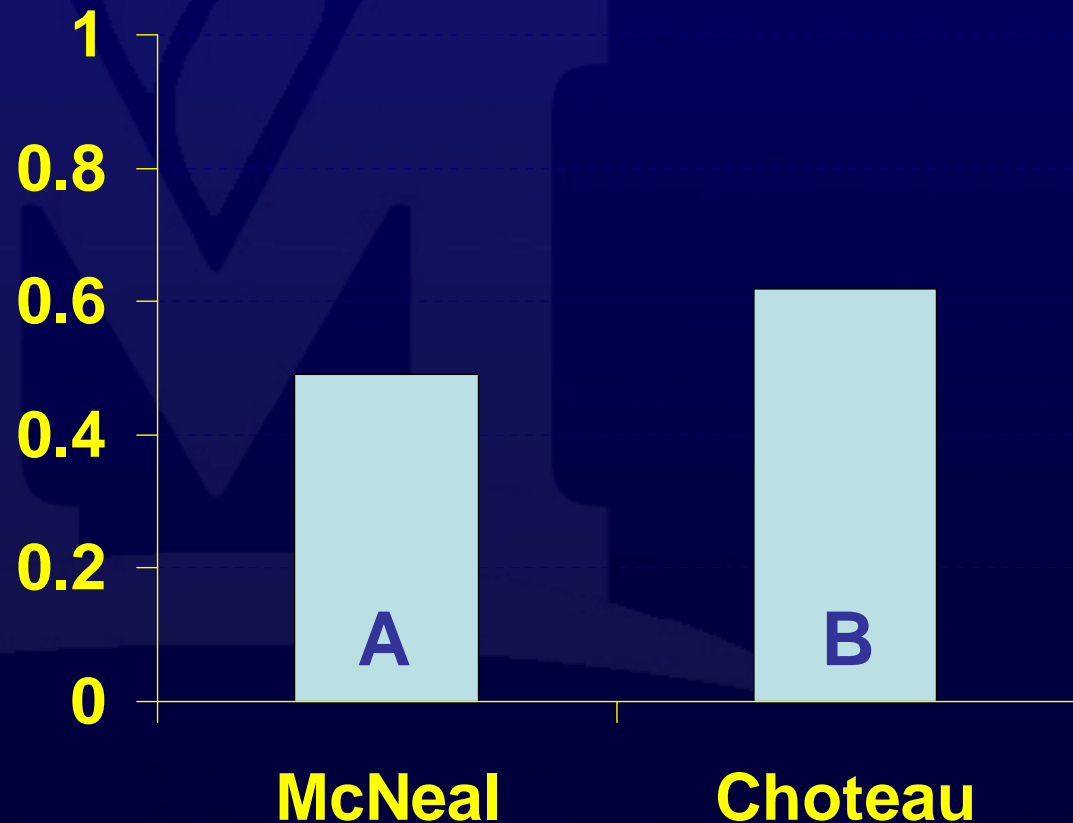
**No  
Significant  
Differences**



# Disease: Year 1

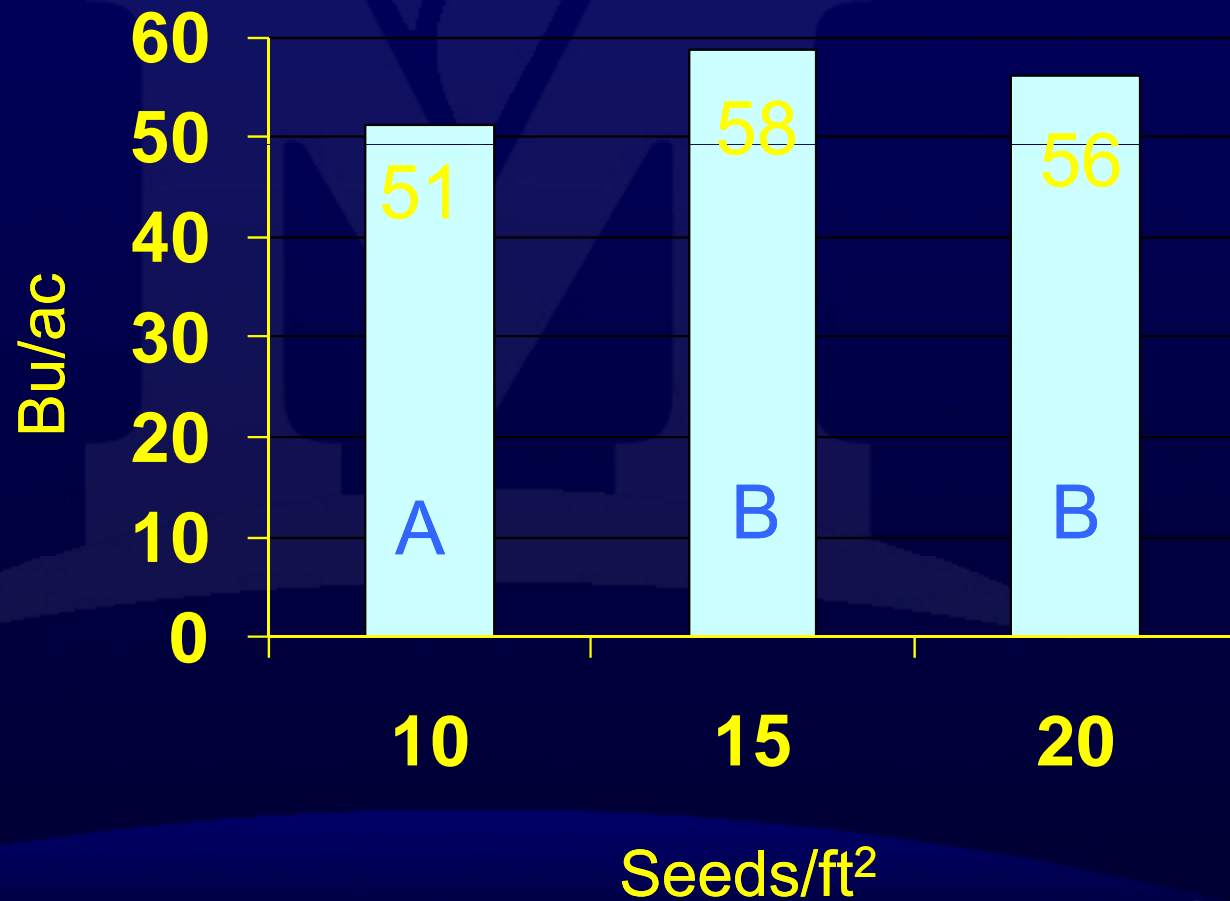
**Significant  
Differences**

**$P < 0.001$**



# Seeding Densities Without Fusarium (excess N)

**Lower Seeding Density Cost**

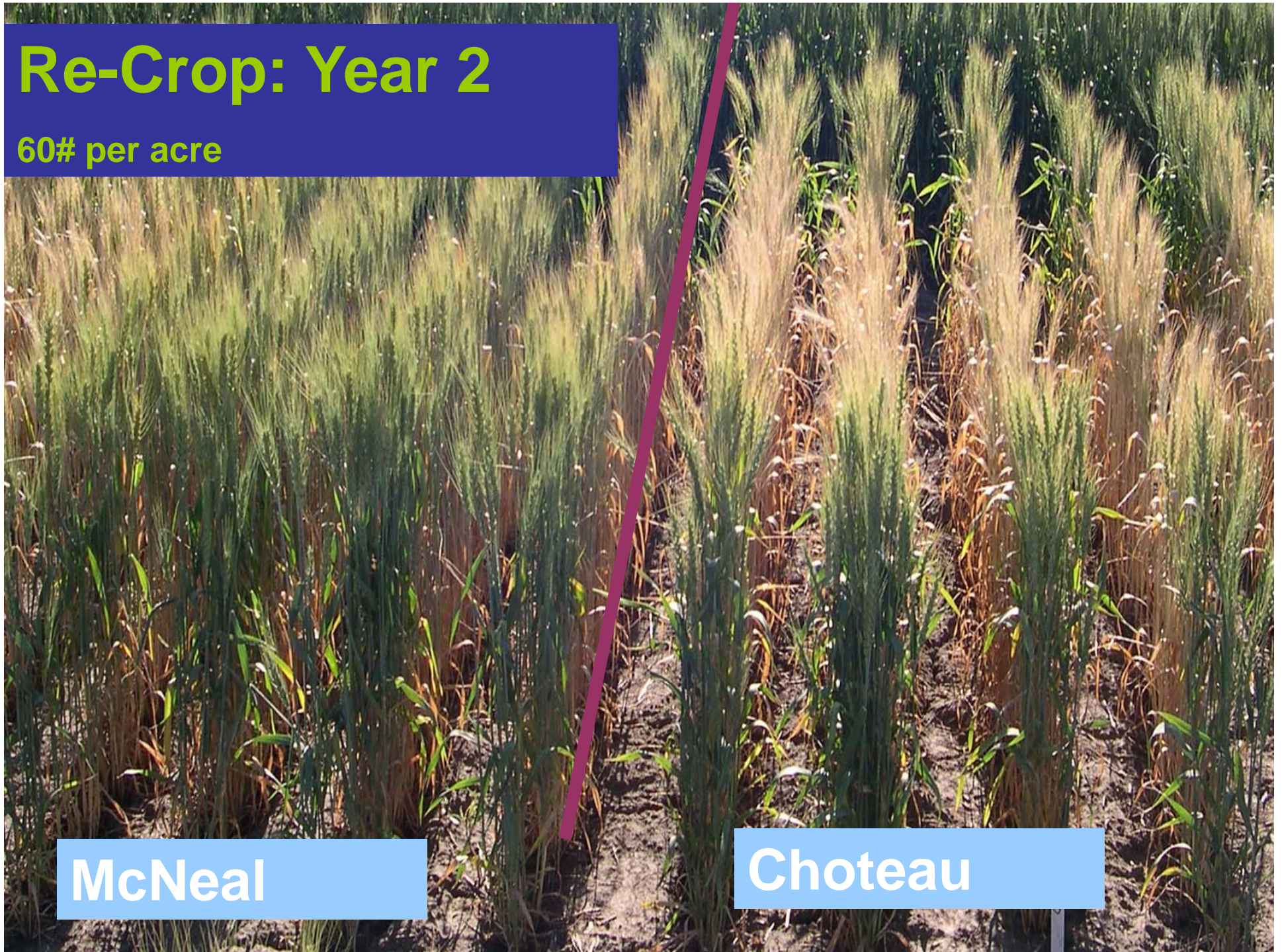


# Re-Crop: Year 2

60# per acre

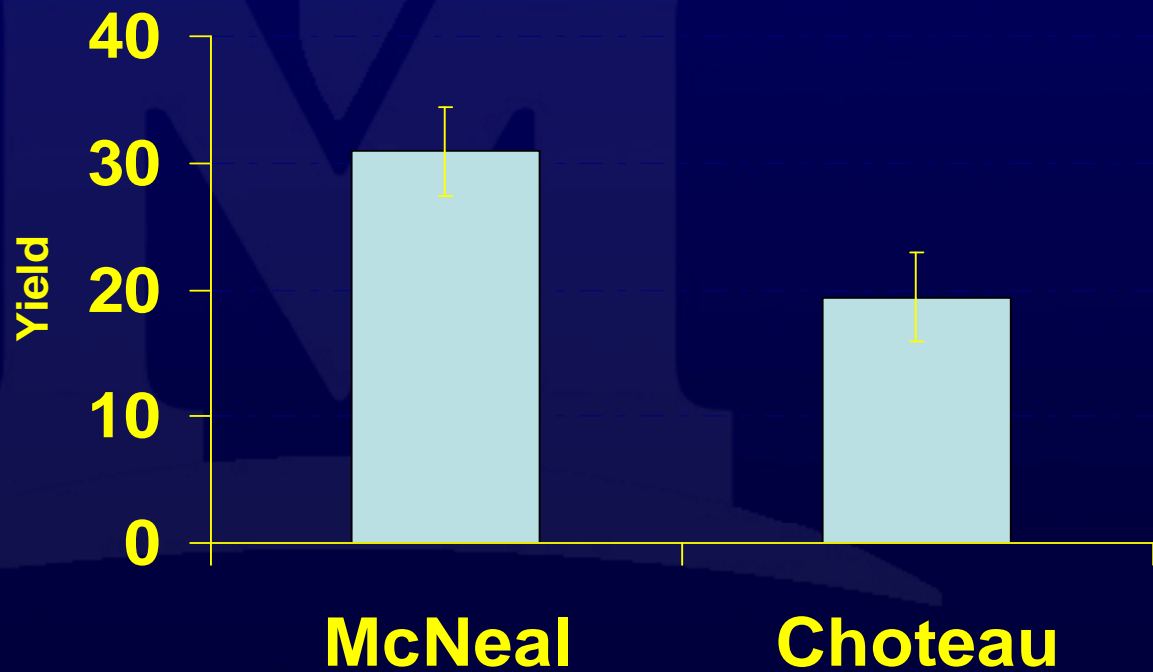
McNeal

Choteau



# Yield for Year 2

$P < 0.001$



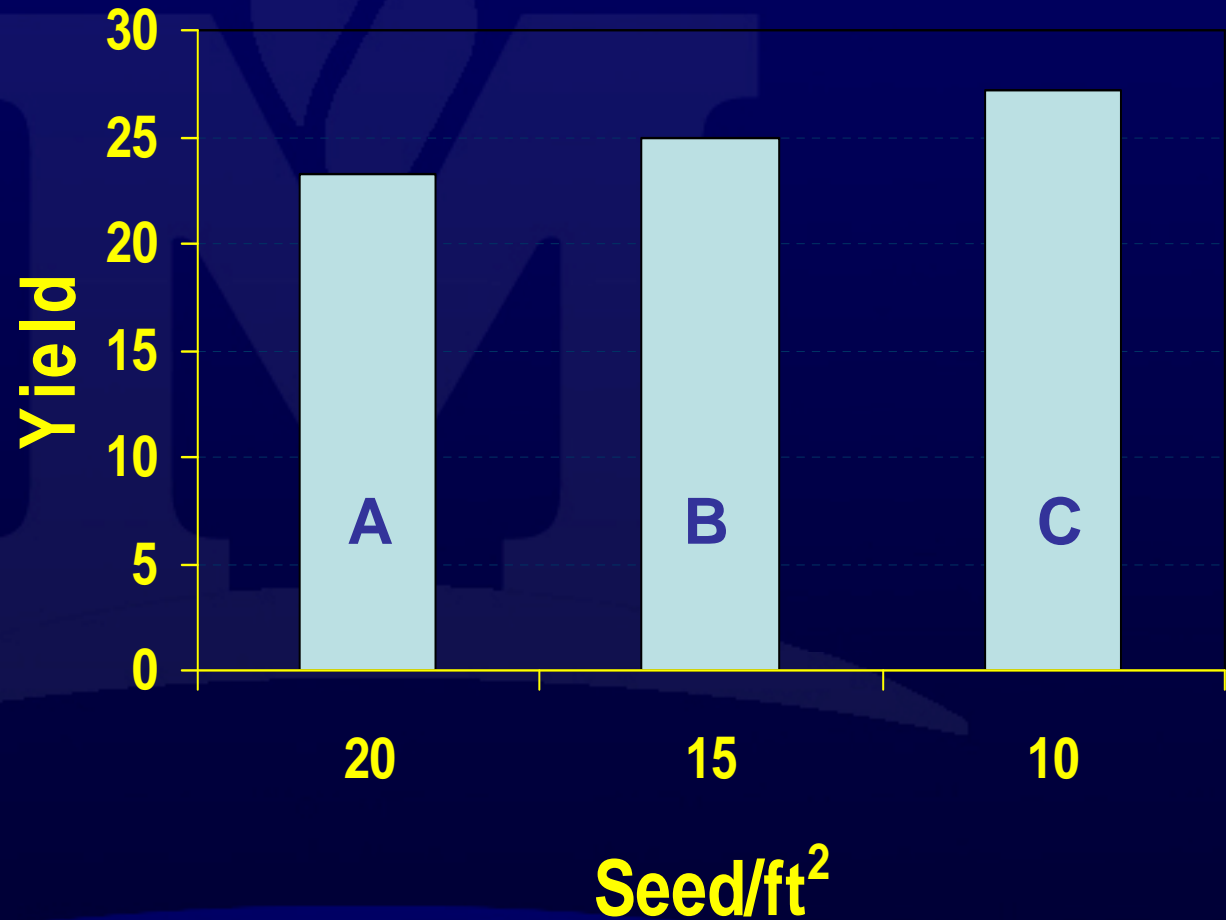
# Yield - Year 2: Stand Density

17% Increase

McNeal  
8%

Choteau  
32%

$P < 0.001$

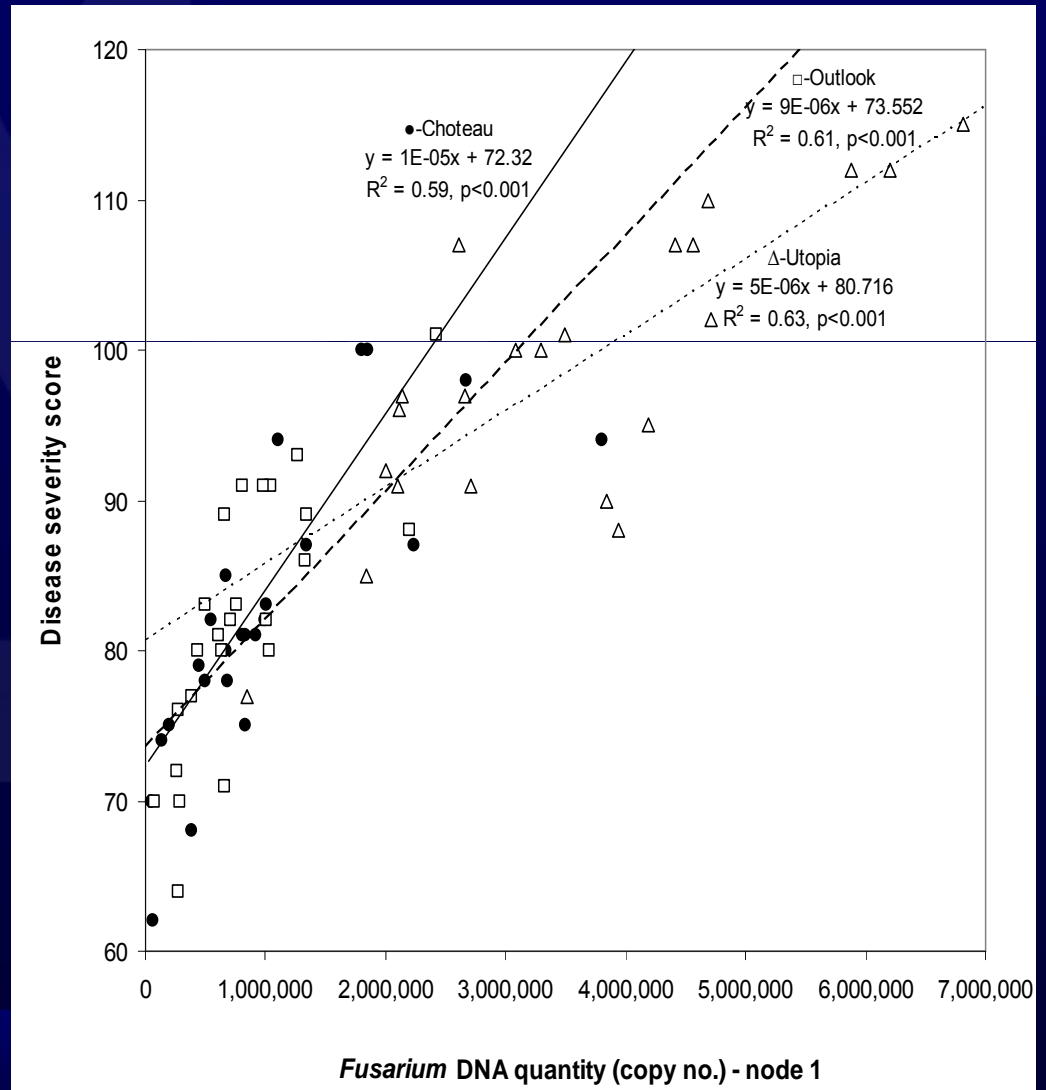


# Fusarium Crown Rot Recommendations

- **All Crops: Seed Treatment  
(especially for winter wheat)**
- **For Annually Cropped Spring Wheat:  
Reduce Seeding Density**

# Future ?

**Mismanagement of FCR can result in a 40% difference between expected and actual yield.**



# Seedling Diseases

**Diagnosis is heavily oriented to the field history**

**Seed treatments are the main source of control**

# Most Common Sources of Problems (Winter Wheat)

**Situation A:**

**Planting into dry seed bed:**

**Dry Seed Decay**

**Situation B:**

**Winter-kill despite good snow cover:**

**Fusarium Seedling Blight or Snow mold**

# Fusarium Induced Winterkill

Entry	Percent Stand
BigSky	75.0
Hatcher	81.3
Jagalene	80.0
Ledger	77.5
MT01148	66.3
MT02113	91.3
MT03176	66.3
MTW01133	58.5
Pryor	76.3
Yellowstone	70.0

*-Ave. 74%*

# Spring and Durum Wheat

## Situations A:

**Cold wet spring or irrigated production**

**Durum Wheat**

**Pythium**

## Situation B:

**Planting quickly after glyphosate treatment**

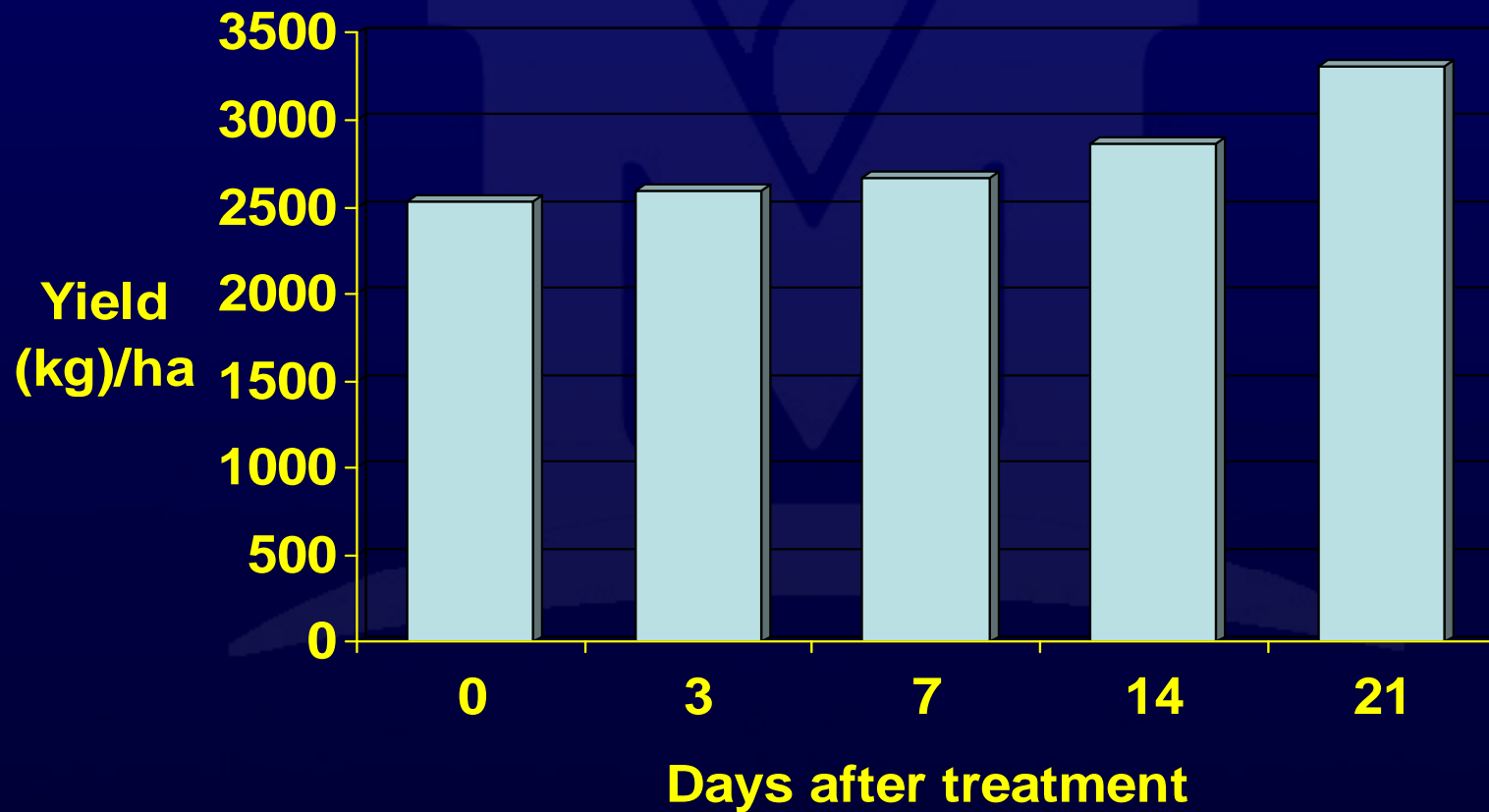
**Rhizoctonia Bare Patch**

# Rhizoctonia Bare Patch



<http://entomology.montana.edu/spm/Phototourofsite.html>

# Effects of Planting Relative to Glyphosate Treatment



# Rhizoctonia Bare Patch Control

- **Wait three weeks after glyphosate treatment**
- **Treat seed with Charter, Raxil, Dividend or another effective seed treatment**
- **Disking field before planting.... Why?**

# Root Diseases: TOL

Very few diagnostic symptoms

Got to diagnostician...

Something else to consider...

# Root Lesions Nematodes

- Found in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah...Montana
- Endoparasites
- Two Species: *Pratylenchus neglectus*, *Pratylenchus thornei*

# Root Lesion Nematodes





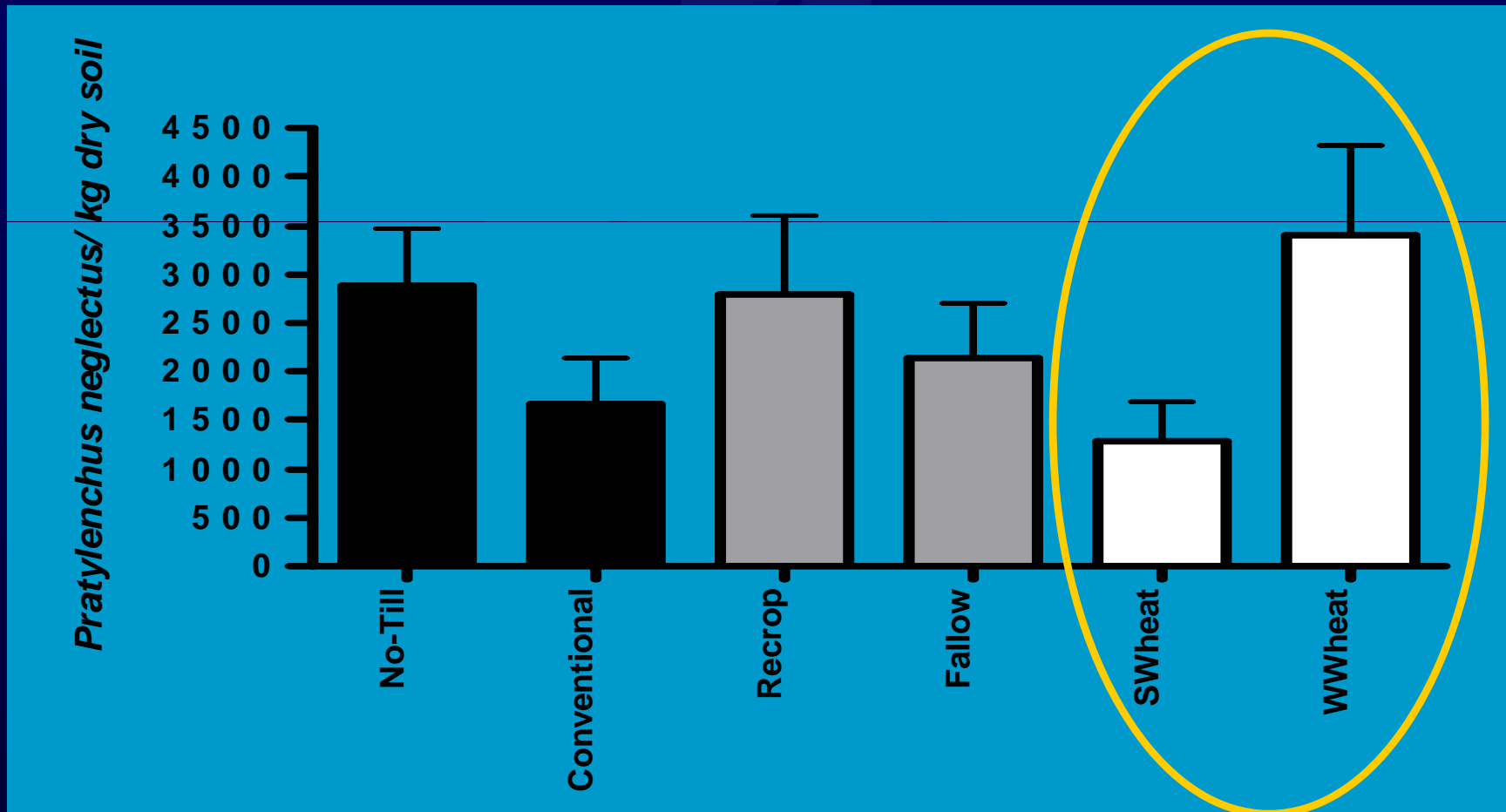
**Field Infested with Root Lesions  
Nematodes in Pendleton, Oregon**

**Machete + aldicarb  
27.8 bu/acre**

**Machete control  
14.3 bu/acre**

Provided by Richard Smiley

# Mean populations relative to cropping systems



# Root Lesion Nematodes



# Yield Relations

<i>P. neglectus</i> kg dry soil	Low Precip. Winter Wheat*	High Precip. Spring Wheat*
0	16.4	94.3
2000	15.2	87.9
4000	14.0	81.5
6000	12.8	-
8000	11.6	-
10,000	10.4	-

# Recommendations

- Rotate to peas or safflower or fallow
- Rotate to spring wheat cultivars:  
Outlook and McNeal
- Canola, barley?
- Testing: [www.westernlaboratories.com](http://www.westernlaboratories.com)

Questions?